

NOTES

**ACFA Advisory Committee Meeting
Missouri Department of Agriculture
Courtyard by Marriott
3301 LeMone Industrial Blvd.
Columbia, MO 65201
December 19, 2005**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Anne Edwards, (Professional Cat Breeders)
Karen Strange, (Hobby/Show Breeders)
Rick Smith, (Municipal Pound/Dog Pounds)
Dr. Scott Gartner, (Veterinarians)
Bonnie Schindler, (Dealer/Broker)
Barbara Ball, (Animal Control Assn.)
Joe Vradenburg, (Representative for Dr. Howard Pue, (Dept. of Health & Senior Services)
Debbie Hill, (Humane Organization)
Elizabeth Niven, (Boarding Kennels)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Lynn Walters, (Commercial Breeders)
Rene Ward, (Animal Shelters)
Lane Craig, (Pet Shops)

MDA PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Shane Brookshire, State Veterinarian & Director, Div. of Animal Health
Dr. Jerry Eber, ACFA Program Veterinarian
Mary Bryan, Attorney General's Office
Patty Kempker, ACFA Administrative Office Support Assistant
Matt Rold, ACFA Animal Health Care Officer
Dawn Wood, MDA Marketing

Dr. Eber – Called the meeting to order. First order of business is our monthly total for our licensing fees and as everyone is aware we are in our renewal period. As you can see our numbers have gone up and they continue to go up. The next thing is a summary of the fiscal balance for the ACFA program. It is now my pleasure to introduce Dr. Brookshire.

Dr. Brookshire – First of all let me say thank you on how much the department and I appreciate you being here and taking time out of your busy schedules. Director, Ferrell sends his best wishes he is out of state today and is not able to join us. We want to make sure that everyone in this room knows that this is a critical mission for the Department of Agriculture and we are here today because this has become a very personal mission of not only the director but of mine, and we feel that the pet industry of Missouri is something that has been pushed aside for a long time and we're committed to improving that, if you are not aware you will be today that we are doing things to improve not only the ACFA Program but also try to offer some assurances for consumers. We are trying to help educate producers in the industry just an

overall effort to improve what's going on. We have met recently with USDA with Dr. Gibbens and talked about the Blue Ribbon Kennel program. I feel honored that they took our program from Missouri and spent time in their annual meeting going over the Blue Ribbon program and the efforts that we're making and gave us some feedback. In the next few weeks we hope to implement some changes and some suggestions that were made by USDA and try to improve on and make a few things a little clearer cut. We have also had some feedback from the pet producers in that not everyone in the state is doing a good job with the animals and animal welfare necessarily has the state of art facility so we are looking at a way we can give some quality assurance. I know how important those pets are and that's why I'm here and why this is such an important part of my mission and the department's mission. If you ever need anything or have any questions or input please call me.

Dr. Eber –The first thing we need to discuss is appointments to this advisory committee for those terms that expire as of this month. Please review the list of advisory committee names on the left appointed through December 2005. Those terms will expire at the end of the month if those of you who are on the committee want to continue or have someone in mind that can replace you send us a letter. I will gather the information and pass the letters to Director Ferrell who makes the appointments.

Next topic will be the Blue Ribbon Kennel Program. Several months ago Director Fred Ferrell, Deputy Director Matt Boatright and Dr. Brookshire and I had a meeting to discuss this new concept that would recognize those kennels that rise above the standards and participate in continuing education and we felt this was important to recognize those people. We began work with the MPBA & PPA designing an initial format of what would be expected to become a Blue Ribbon Kennel and the key element that we felt it should revolve around is producer education. The facilities that are interested in these can get education hours through the MPBA and PPA and through the Canine Care Workshops and local chapter meetings. Once they meet their continuing hour requirements and they apply to our office they will have to:

- 1) Pass a regular ACFA inspection.
- 2) Physical appearance
- 3) Superior ventilation and waste disposal.
- 4) A production facility that is designed and constructed for housing dogs.
- 5) Bio-security
- 6) Record keeping
- 7) Maintenance plan
- 8) Socialization

If the kennel falls short of these requirements they must wait (1) year to reapply.

In your packet there is a Blue Ribbon Brochure. We will also issue a certificate that will go to the kennel owner enrolling them in the Blue Ribbon Kennel Program. We also have plans for a collar to accompany the dog and also a small transfer certificate. So that's where we are with the Blue Ribbon Kennel Program. We are enrolling kennels and we are moving forward and we feel that this is a real positive for both the department and the industry and positive for the animals.

Questions:

To be a part of the Blue Ribbon Kennel program is there a fee?

No

They are issued a certificate saying they are a part of this program is that for a year at a time or is based on the inspection?

It will be based on this and will be a certificate of inclusion until you are not a blue ribbon kennel and if for some reason you fall out of compliance then you wouldn't be a blue ribbon kennel.

Will there be some publication or media release promoting this program?

Our media person is working on plans at a later date to do some media promotions.

Are there any consideration in regards to something similar for the other organizations such as shelters and humane societies things of that nature?

That has been thought of and discussed and yes we are thinking about some way to do something.

We have added two new inspectors to our staff Joe Atteberry and Elizabeth Wainwright.

Are you saying you have more inspectors now?

Yes

Once you're certified into the Blue Ribbon Kennel Program that the next year you are self inspected?

We may not go back but USDA continues to inspect on a risk basis and those kennels may be only inspected every two years or three years. It is our hope that this will enable us to concentrate on problem places and we've got those and most of those are unlicensed places and many of them are USDA exempt. USDA does not inspect any person who sells retail, they don't inspect anyone who sells at flea markets or sells on the internet so to my way of thinking three fourths of the dogs being sold are not being inspected. There is a flea market in Canton, Texas. They sell as many dogs in the course of the year as Hunte Corporation. So we will feel like it's important for us in Missouri to work on unlicensed activity.

Do veterinarians use a self inspection program?

Yes, we do.

There will be inspections and we will continue to grow and develop and it will give us more time to focus on retail sales, flea market and internet sales.

Do you have to be a member of one of these organizations Missouri Pet Breeders Association or Professional Pet Association?

Yes, dues paying member of one of these organization.

Anymore questions about the Blue Ribbon Kennel program?

Will you publish a list of Blue Ribbon Kennels?

Yes

Dr. Brookshire – The Blue Ribbon Kennel is not a stand alone issue. We are trying to become more efficient. The director and I both coming from a business background have tried to identify things that will make us more efficient and get the kennels inspected; get to some of the things that were brought up in the audit report. We are trying to focus our attention on the bad actors. The ones in the middle that might have a violation or two that we might have to address the small things such as call and schedule appointments. We are trying to coordinate with USDA better. Understand that we are trying to do the best for the animals, were trying to change our system so we can get to as many as we can but with the resources we have I don't know if we can ever have enough and that's not an excuse that's just the way that it is. We are going to do the best that we can and we're going to do the best that we can for the animals.

Are you marketing the program?

Yes, our marketing program is working on this program.

Dr. Eber – Thanks for attending this meeting is adjourned.

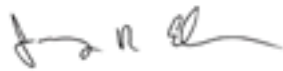
Typed by:



**Patty Kempker,
ACFA Administrative Office Support Assistant**

Date: 5/15/2006

Reviewed by:



**Dr. Jerry Eber,
ACFA Program Veterinarian**

Date: 5/15/2006